



Member Meeting Minutes September 14, 2019

The meeting was called to order by Association President Steve Young. Steve opened the meeting by introducing guest speaker Dean Branson of the Three Lakes Association who promoted the value of comparing programs among the area lake associations and sharing ideas and information. As an example, he suggested close monitoring of phosphate levels in lakes, and a focus on gold-brown algae, a relatively new problem. He suggests that we employ temporary wells to monitor ground water under the lake(s) as the major source of phosphorus this has been done in the TLA lakes. He then discussed the possible causes and known effects of phosphorus, which is a nutrient for algae and weeds.

Dean went on to describe the new Elk River Chain of Lakes Watershed Management Plan currently being developed, which is designed to earn the approval of the EPA and EGLE; such approval is n

Members briefly introduced themselves to the group.

Janet Hickman reported for the Lake Level committee, describing the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' funding procedures, which include a requirement that a unit of government be among the contributors to the funding of every project they undertake. In our case, it is vital that Antrim County provide this co-funding, and she urged all members to attend the County Board of Commissioners meeting on 9/19 to show local support for the project. Janet then provided suggested wording for members to use in a signed note to be submitted at the meeting. There followed a discussion of the Commissioners' mood and motivation to contribute their funding, and of possible alternative sources should they be needed. Janet then described Mark Stone's recent changes to dam operating protocol which are intended to limit extreme variations in lake level.

Steve then reported that the Association treasury currently has a bank balance of \$18,000 of which \$6,500 is designated for Swimmers Itch remediation. He reported that 4 commercial sponsors have been recruited, and that association membership has grown from 129 in 2018 to 169 presently; this represents about 30% of riparian owners.

Steve reported that CAKE/CISMA had performed a lake survey and found 2 sites of phragmites, and little purple loosestrife. Steve and Dave Edwards of Tip of the Mitt will perform a submerged weed inventory in October.

Jim Gilleylen reported that the Swimmers Itch study has been completed by Freshwater Solutions; the results will be presented in October and reported in the Association Newsletter.

Steve announced that a social hour will be held at the Torch Lake Cafe at 4pm on 9/29. All are encouraged to attend. The meeting was adjourned at 11:50am.

Respectfully submitted,
Bob Webb